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The "directive coloration" plate shows two specimens of a Mexican species of jack rabbit, which has white sides and a dark buffy mantle covering the back. One figure shows the mantle in its usual position, the other with the mantle "shifted to the opposite side and the whitish area of the side drawn up nearly or quite to the dorsal line," the animal being then in the act of "signalling." This extraordinary feat is described at length on page 115, where it is said that "By means of muscles the skin of either side can be drawn over the back at will." Mr. Nelson further states that on one occasion one of these rabbits observed by him kept the "white area in the same position until it had traveled 50 or 60 yards, when the colors slowly resumed their normal positions."

Despite the slight criticisms we have felt called upon to make, Mr. Nelson's "The Rabbits of North America" marks an era in the history of the group, and is so comprehensive and so well done that it must long remain the basis for future work, to be corrected doubtless in many minor details as new material is received, but nevertheless a boon to all workers in North American mammalogy.

J. A. ALLEN.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

NEUROLOGY

Edinger's "Vorlesungen über den Bau der nervösen Centralorgane" made its first appearance as a small volume in 1885. Its directness and lucidity gained for it at once a deserved popularity and a growing demand justified the numerous editions under which it subsequently appeared. In its latest form, the seventh edition, the work consists of two volumes, either of which is about twice the size of the original edition. This considerable expansion has taken the work away from the circle of readers, mostly medical students and physicians, for whom the earlier editions were intended. It is therefore natural that an effort should be made to return to the earlier form and this effort has found its realization in the present "Introduction."[1] This volume, which contains a little less than two hundred pages, is a summary of the larger work, but with the emphasis laid on the human central nervous organs. The presentation has the great advantage of beginning with the consideration of the spinal cord, the more primitive part of the central nervous system, and then proceeding to the more specialized part, the brain, instead of dealing with these subjects in the reverse order as in the early editions of the "Lectures." The condensation has been most admirably done, and, as a work that is intended to state briefly those matters that are best established for the structure of the central nervous organs in man, it is a masterpiece. The regrets that one may have about the volume are chiefly because of omissions, but condensation implies omissions and it is hard to imagine under the circumstances a better selection of materials. In one respect the general presentation might perhaps have been improved. It is strange that Dr. Edinger, who accepts the neurone theory so completely, should have abandoned this method of presentation in dealing with the brain, though he adopts it in his account of the cord. Possibly, however, the greater uncertainty of resolving the brain from the standpoint of the neurone as compared with the cord, is a justification for this difference of treatment. In illustration and typography the volume is on as high a level as in subject matter.

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[1] Edinger, L., "Einführung in die Lehre vom Bau und den Verrichtungen des Nervenssystems." Leipzig, F. C. W. Vogel, 190 pp., 161 figures, 1 plate, 1909.

G. H. PARKER.